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Gov. Daugaard Asks For Flags At Half-Staff Thursday To Honor Fallen Soldier

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard asks that all flags in the state be flown at half-staff on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011, from 8 a.m. until sunset, in honor of National Guard Specialist Dennis G. Jensen of Sioux Falls.

Jensen, formerly of Vermillion, died in a noncombat accident Aug. 16 in Afghanistan while working on a bridge project.

“This was a tragic accident, and South Dakota has once again lost one of its heroes,” Gov. Daugaard said. “I offer my sincere condolences to Specialist Jensen’s family and friends.”

A funeral service for Jensen, 21, will be held at the United Church of Christ, 218 W. 5th Street in Yankton, at 10 a.m. CDT on Thursday. Burial, with full military honors, will be at the Black Hills National Cemetery near Sturgis.

Gov. Daugaard also has asked for flags at half-staff Thursday for former Rep. Gordon Pederson, who died Saturday. His funeral is set for 10 a.m. MDT Thursday at the Wall High School gymnasium. Burial, with full military honors, will be at the Wall Cemetery.